

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

1. Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 4 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 1, in one implementation of the invention, tree structures are used to represent a computer program. These representations are used to generate and validate one or more executable programs, as will be described. The representations can include a tree structure defining the implementation modules, in this particular case, classes to be implemented 100, and a tree structure defining the definition modules, in this particular case, the associated interfaces 105. It is advantageous to define the implementation modules and the definition modules using a language-independent representation. A language-independent ~~language-independent~~ representation is not restricted to any particular programming language used to implement an executable program. In one exemplary implementation, the implementation modules and the definition modules can be specified in a language that can be used as a meta-language, e.g., Extensible Markup Language (XML), Extended Backus-Naur Form (EBNF), Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1), or LISP.